

SBARA's Groundplane

APRIL 2010

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 4



ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



Presidents Corner

I am really excited about our April meeting. Our guest speaker, Andy Rose (K16SEP) will be discussing the inroads that his ARES group has made in the area of Packet Radio during an emergency. Packet radio is a digital mode using Packet Radio Bulletin Boards to send and receive messages and files. When I was looking at packet radio, I was reminded of the days before the Internet was mainstream. These were days when computers and modems were used to create bulletin board Systems (BBS). As a system operator (SysOp), I developed many applications for users of my BBS. Moving from nostalgia to the now, I started to think about the kind of applications that could be used for packet radio. A SCARES member told me about PacForms. PacForms provide a way of sending data from a webpage to Outpost (a highly revered application for managing packet radio communications).

After some time of studying what SCARES had done, I managed to develop something similar for Fremont ARES. However, three of their members had already been working with the developer of

Outpost and requested that I wait for the "New and Improved" version of Outpost. That worked for me because I started working again and didn't have much time to devote to application development of any kind.

While I was waiting to see what the new Outpost would provide, Andy went forth and began developing applications using the built in script engine in Outpost. He continues to fine tune his applications and will be honoring our club with his accomplishments. Meanwhile, Outpost continues to add features allowing people like Andy (and any of us who want to tinker with it) to develop applications suitable for the Emergency Service organization we support.

What I find most fascinating about all of this is that what was old is now new again. We bring back the experiences we had with BBS and apply it to new inroads in PBBS and emergency services. Let us continue to explore different ways of using our hobby in the support of emergency services.

Jim Thomas
K16TCE

Special Interest...

- First VE Session Complete!
- Many New Hams
- Field Day—Getting Close

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First Tri-City VE Test Session

Maybe we should have run a lottery—Guess how many candidates will take exams at the first Tri-City VE Group session March 13th. But I wouldn't have won. I was prepared for a woeful four people while Bernhard Hailer AE6YN and Robin Yee KI6YTA were rooting for double digits. We were

thrilled when 16 candidates arrived. Yow!

Candidates easily found our location due to the great signs produced by Al Rendon WT6K and Bernhard. They were welcomed by Ken Parker KJ6ANR before proceeding to Check-In for ID verification by Robin.



Scott Mercer KI6SEJ and Rita Derbas KI6SSQ took their fees and passed out exams.

Inside the Exam Room, Bill Artelt WB9YVM and Jim Ferenz KC6PYM were our watchful Proctors. Graders were ready and anxious to

fill in CSCEs: Sid Parker KA6YBK, Joe Pistrutto N3CKF, and Jon Gefaell K6OJ.

Our first licenses went to Technician Class Paul Ouellet, KJ6GGV of San Jose.



General Class was earned by our SBARA member, Egbert Vallecillo KI6FIU,

First Tri-City VE Test Session



Extra Class went to Michael Kalman KJ6FTC of San Diego, who just happened to be in town and in need of his upgrade.

After the flash bulbs popping, hand shaking and pats on the back, Joe Colouch WB6FTD handed out Congratulations Kits packed with promotional material.



Dan Curtis N6WN had radios crackling on the N6NFI repeater to encourage new hams to overcome PTT fear. And they did.

We need to find roller skates for Bernhard who performed "mobile" duty dashing between the Exam Room and the Check-In area ensuring Murphy and His Law would not make an appearance.

In all, we administered 25 exams.



James Rawlings AF6VF of Livermore wins the award for taking and passing all three exams. Congratulations!

First Tri-City VE Test Session

Every candidate left with a CSCE of some level. And thanks to all for making this a memorable event. Thanks to Hurricane Electric for providing an excellent facility. To

73,
Rita Derbas KI6SSQ

Editors Note:
Additional photos of those who obtained their licenses during the first Tri-City VE Session are contained in the Photos Section. Congratulations to all of you!!

the Argus and many other local papers for the wonderful article the day prior, and to SBARA for making this possible.

CQ Young Hams...CQ Young Hams...

On April 10 @ 2 PM PST, we will have our Kick Off Youth Net.

It will be on the N6NFI Repeater, 145.230 - 100. Young hams, 18 or younger, can also check-in through Echolink, using KR6DD-R (271122) or N6WN-R (477737).

Please help us get the word out, and if you have any questions, suggestion, etc., please contact K3SFG at K3SFG@arrl.net.

Note: Only hams 18 and younger can check-in to this net.

Please visit <http://www.sbara.org/index.html> and click on Youth Group in the left side bar.

Thanks and 73!

- Ryan, K3SFG

VHF J Pole 146 MHz sufficient on 220 and 440 MHz

Materials Required

9 ½ Feet ½" Copper Pipe

3 Each ½" End Caps

1 Each ½" Tee

1 Each ½" Elbow

Solder and Flux

Required length of 50 Ohm Coax.

Optional SO-239 Connector

Optional insulator for SO-239 Connector

Optional Mounting nuts, bolts, and washers for mounting SO-239 insulator

Cut 4 lengths of pipe

A 37 ½"

B 18 ½"

C 58 ½"

D 2 ½"

Solder end caps, one each on A, B, and C

Solder elbow on open end of B

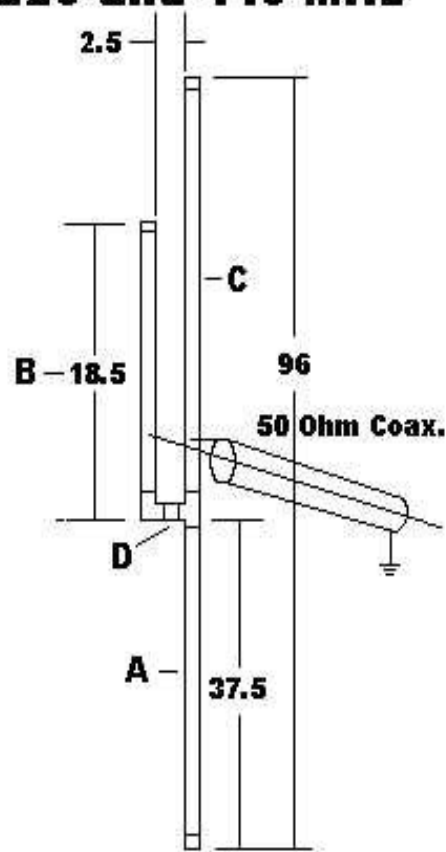
Solder one end of D to open end of elbow

Solder thru ends of tee to open ends of A and C

Solder open end of D to open end of tee

Attach 50 ohm coax cable 3" above centerline of D as shown using direct connection or optional insulator and connector

1998 KF4SCI



Tri Band J-Pole Antenna Plans

Newly licensed Hams, as well as those on a budget, are always looking for a simple, inexpensive antenna for two meters and 440 MHz. After trying several designs over the years, I finally constructed one last week from these plans. It works very well and required no adjustments for acceptable SWR!

One addition, if you solder a cap on the lower 37.5" piece of copper tubing, make sure to provide a condensation drain hole near the bottom of the antenna. de Glenn - K5GC

Is BPL Dead?

Is Broadband over Power Line Dead?

There were many technical experts, the League, and myself that said BPL is technically flawed and therefore not economically viable. Therefore BPL will die from its flaws. Furthermore, we (the amateur community) have the law on our side. We are licensed users and under FCC regulations we are protected from unlicensed, BPL, interference.

Then the FCC came out with absurd, unscientific findings. The community asked for the scientific basis of these findings and we got historic, redacted, science. It now seems obvious there was political intervention. Somebody was telling the FCC engineers to shut up. Sound engineering practice and the law had been trumped by shadowy politicians.

So the ARRL, on behalf of the American Amateur, sued and won. The suit returned us to the rule of law and sound engineering practice.

If the hams won and our radio spectrum was successfully defended, who lost? Was it the Federal Communications Commission, the utilities, the BPL equipment manufacturers, or the politicians pulling the commissioner's strings? The FCC had a little egg on its face but was otherwise unscathed, BPL and its supporters continued to die of self inflicted wounds because the concept is flawed, and the politicians pull-

ing the strings remained hidden. Our government picked up the costs for the errant FCC but the pockets of the Amateur Radio community has been picked for million dollars in legal costs while the FCC whined about reimbursing minor filing fees? *Did you think the backers of BPL tyranny would go silently into the night?* Victory is bittersweet!

Do we need to go out on some EME free night and drive a silver stake into the heart of this tyranny? It would seem so. In a March 15th, 2010 article entitled *Broadband Plan has worthy aims, but implementing it won't be easy*, by Mike Zapler of the *San Jose Mercury News*, Mr. Zapler states our government 'would spend \$6.5 billion on a new public safety broadband network dedicated to emergency first responders. And at least one building in every community, such as a school or a government building, would have a super-fast Internet connection with speeds of at least 1 gigabit per second.'

Elsewhere Mr. Zapler states: 'One of the key flash points is likely to be over highly sought-after wireless radio waves. To feed the explosion of Smartphones, Netbooks and other wireless devices, over the next decade the FCC wants to reallocate 500 megahertz of spectrum now used by TV stations, government, and *others* [italics added]. This is alarming in so many ways.

Continued on Page 7

Is BPL Dead? (cont'd.)

Where is this half gigahertz of spectrum coming from? They have defined a 120 MHz of TV spectrum arguing that with cable, the broadcasters don't need the over air spectrum. They argue that the very people that can't afford the \$90 cable service should have their free, over the air TV, replaced with free Internet access supplanting \$30 Internet access. Now these same people will be able to download a 4 GB movie in 5 minutes instead of the 36 minutes it now takes over cable. However, apparently in an effort to make this option more palatable, it is labeled, 'emergency first responders access'. This is, again apparently, so the firemen and police can watch videos in their vehicles and of course the kiddies can watch videos at school instead of at home. By the way, that odor in the room is not from the local dairy.

Doing the math, a 120 MHz from 500 MHz leaves 380 MHz of additional spectrum to steal; 380 MHz of spectrum that is to come from the government and *other*.

If you look carefully at the allocation charts you can't find anywhere near 380 MHz of government spectrum unless you count the military spectrum which is not under direct FCC control. This is the same military spectrum which in some cases is shared with the amateur community. The same shared spectrum the military is now saying the hams must reduce their activities in because of national security issues. Boy that smell is getting bad!

Finally we come to the third target for spectrum confiscation... the '*other*'. Surely I don't have to tell you who the *other* is!

The terms *ham* and *amateur* are such difficult words. Now we can just refer to ourselves as *others*. It is clear that the defense of Amateur spectrum, aka as other spectrum, is an ongoing process. It is also clear the politicians have to be reminded of the right thing to do. You might want to ask the congressional people seeking your vote how they feel about the new Public Safety Broadband Network. You might ask them why it is necessary for the schools to have video on demand when they can use ordinary DVDs for teaching videos. While you are at it, ask when the *first responders* will have time to watch videos. Finally, we need to clean out the chicken coup whatever is producing the awful smell that seems to be permeating the air around here.

Fred Townsend, AE6QL

Collection of Interesting Items

I came across some interesting articles from which I have drawn a wealth of knowledge and amazement. I would like to share the same with you and hope you will find it amazing as well.

SOS call from Titanic (audio recording)

<http://www.scottcook.com/clothmonkey/distress.htm>

"The sound you can hear by clicking on the control above is a recreation of part of one of the Titanic's distress calls sent by Marconi operator Jack Phillips (left) aboard RMS Titanic just after midnight on Monday, April 15, 1912."

Amateur Radio Antennas

<http://www.w2blc.us/linkant.htm>

The largest collection of articles and links about antennas I have ever come across. Everything you ever wanted to know about antennas is probably in here !

Modified Mercalli Scale

<http://www.seismo.unr.edu/ftp/pub/louie/class/100/mercalli.html>

A reference from FEMA for people involved in emergency rescue, services and communication. A must have for your go kit !

KV5R's OCF 2-Meter Sleeve Dipole Antenna

<http://www.athensarc.org/sleevedipole.asp>

Apparently, the design was originally used by the Navy. I built it one night in under 15 minutes with some Aluminum foil, a 5 foot fiberglass tube, some masking tape and a short piece of mini-coax. I get a difference of +2 S units with this antenna with a HT, from inside my garage. Also, based on this design, I am proceeding to develop a "completely invisible in plain sight" model, please stand by...!

Disaster Drill in East Bay

The city of Oakland and neighborhoods in the city of Berkeley will be holding a disaster preparedness drill on the 24th of April. The drills are separate, but are both intended to increase disaster preparedness.

Amateur radio operators are invited to participate by checking into the Jefferson Noon Net on the 24'th of April. The net is an established SSB EMCOMM net. It is

held daily at 1200 pacific time on 7204 kHz, or alternatively 7214 kHz. All amateur radio operators with the appropriate licensing are encouraged to participate.

Any comments or questions about the drill should be directed to event coordinator Bruce Carleton, KI6UKZ. He can be contacted by email as rbc@rbcarleton.com."

SBARA To Support 2010 Primavera Bicycle Event

SBARA membership has once again responded to the call for amateur radio support for the Fremont Freewheelers Primavera Bicycle Ride on Sunday, April 11th. Tony Flusche AB6BR, the SBARA - FFW contact announced that the response has been gratifying.

A few Volunteers are needed for the opening's that remain, so contact Tony TonyF@att.net if you have been waiting to sign up. This year the SBARA SAG drivers are inviting SBARA members who may not want to volunteer but are interested in going along for the ride to join them as they drive the course and support the riders. It is a good way to have some fun and observe while the SBARA volunteers do their job. Limited seats in the SAG vehicles are available so if interested contact Tony at ab6br@arrl.net to reserve your seat.

SBARA has been asked to provide radio support for the Primavera bicycle Ride on Sunday April 11, 2010. The bike ride starts and ends at Logan High School in Union City, travels south to Ed Levin Park, East/North up Calaveras Rd to Sunol, East through southern Pleasanton and Livermore to the top of the Altamont Pass then west back through central Livermore and Pleasanton, over the Dublin grade next to 580, south down Palomares Rd. to Niles Canyon and back to Logan High School.

There are options for rides of 25,40,60 and 100 miles. We need to cover 5 aid stations, plus net control and as many SAG vehicles as possible, up to 17. The most important SAG areas to cover with Ham Radio are Calaveras Rd and Palomares Canyon as cell phones do not work there. An HT with any outside the car antenna will work for SAG. An HT with a rubber ducky and 11 hours of battery will suffice at all the aid stations. We will be using the 147.045+ repeater on Sunol ridge. Except in the area of Ed Levin where we will use W6MLP 145.43-

Morning only or afternoon only shifts are available. Contact Tony Flusche at: Tony.F@comcast.net or you may call him at: 510-247-3220.

EMCOMMWEST 2010

This year's speakers and schedule can be viewed at the site, which will continually update as new forums and sessions are added, so check back often. If you know of someone who would like to present at this event, route them to the website for a speakers package. Registration forms, vendor registration, banquet and breakfast tickets, room reservations etc. can be obtained here as well.

There are some very interesting topics to be discussed this year, including a presentation of special interest to those operating on the 420-450 band, on the USAF's new RADAR system, formerly known as Pave Paws, in Northern California. Lt. Col. Corey J. Keppler and his staff who work directly with the project at Beale will make this presentation. They will present an overview of the unit mission, explain the project and their use of the 420 - 450 mhz. band, and why the mitigation of interference is important to the mission. Their presentation will be followed by a full session of Q&A to answer questions from the Amateur Radio community. There will also be FEMA ICS and NOAA Weather Spotter training classes offered at the event, and a "get your ham license in one day" class along with VE license testing for all classes.

ARRL's CEO, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ will be the special Saturday night banquet speaker this year! Keynote speaker will be Mark Spencer, WA8SME of the ARRL. This year's EMCOMMWEST will offer a new "Sunday Brunch" with special guest speaker, Tom Tao-mina, K5RC who's huge contest station in Virginia City Highlands, Nevada is legendary.

This year's EMCOMMWEST will take place Friday April 30 - Sunday May 2, 2010 and has something for everyone! If you haven't been to one before, come to Reno's The Grand Sierra Hotel Resort, which features an indoor shopping mall, movie theatres, outdoor driving range, lots of restaurants and an on-site RV park. If you want to learn a lot, meet old friends and make new ones, have fun and "love Amateur Radio", then you just have to be at EMCOMMWEST 2010!

ARRL Pacific Division
Director: Robert Vallio, W6RGG
w6rgg@arrl.org

2010 SBARA FIELD DAY PLANS ARE UNDER WAY

Mark your calendar for **June 25th, 26th, and 27th** for this year's **Field Day Emergency Communications exercise**. Our motto this year is "Lets work together" to improve our local community emergency communications preparedness.

The first Field Day took place in 1934 and was sponsored by the ARRL as it still is today. The object is to practice quickly setting up our radio equipment and seeing how many other Field Day stations we can contact. All equipment must be operated from emergency power such as gas generators or batteries.

This year SBARA will once again be setting up for Field Day in Central Park and will be operating on 10M, 15M, 20M, 40M and 80M during the weekend. As is traditional, we will have a group dinner Saturday at 5:30PM for all the participants, their family and friends.

Starting on Friday the 25th, participants will begin setting up the tents and station equipment and antennas for the 24 hours of operation that begins Saturday the 26th at 11:00AM. Teardown begins on Sunday at 11:00AM and participation in the setup and teardown are important parts of the learning process in preparedness for real emergencies.

Everyone is invited to get involved. If you want to set up a battery powered QRP station or setup on the VHF/UHF bands you will be accommodated at the SBARA field Day. Just speak up and let Al Rendon (wt6k@arrl.net) know your desires. Remember, this is an exercise in Emergency Communications first and foremost.

As they say, "stay tuned in for more details" on this fun filled weekend of amateur radio emergency practice operations.

Tri City VE Ham Test Sessions

The next Tri-City VE ham test session will be held on Thursday, April 15, 6:30 – 9:00PM at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs

Boulevard, Fremont, CA. Contact Rita at: (510) 703-7090 KI6SSQ@ARRL.net to reserve you exam spot.

See you on the 15th!!

T-Hunts and Other Happenings

T-Hunts:

Other

On the first Sunday of every month, year round, rain or shine. The swap meet has moved to Robertson Park in Livermore. Free parking for buyers. The market opens at 7:00 AM and closes at 11:30 AM.

Visit the [LARK](#) (Livermore Amateur Radio Klub) [swapmeet](#) page for official information and directions. **Talk-in:** AD6X 147.120+ (100Hz PL)

Saturday, April 10 - The Electronics Flea Market (official site: www.electronicfleamarket.com) is held on the second Saturday (pre-dawn) of each month, March through October. The flea market is operated by [ASVARO](#). See the FARS [calendar](#) (or the [official schedule](#)) for actual dates. The market opens at 5:00 AM and closes at 12:00 Noon. The flea market is located at De Anza College in Cupertino. You can find [detailed directions](#) on the [Electronics Flea Market](#) web site. **Talk-in:** [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL), [N6NFI](#) 145.23- (100Hz PL)

And looking ahead to May...

The 2010 edition of **EMCOMMWEST** will be held the first weekend in May, 2010. Starting on Friday, April 30, and running through Sunday, May 2, EMMCOMMWEST will again be hosted in Reno, Nevada.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

[Mark Spencer WA8SME](#) will be our Keynote Speaker at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. A Convention Registration Badge is required

[Lt Col Corey Keppler USAF](#) will host a two-hour forum and Q&A session on *PAVE PAWS* at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

A Convention Registration Badge is required

[David Sumner K1ZZ](#) is Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President, and Secretary of the American Radio Relay League. He will speak at the Saturday night banquet.

A Convention Banquet Ticket is required

[Tom Taormina K5RC](#) will be our breakfast speaker on Sunday morning.

A Convention Sunday Breakfast Ticket is required

Dick Flanagan K7VC

Executive Director EMMCOMMWEST 2010

Discounted rooms are available. Go to <http://www.emcommwest.org/> to register or for more information.

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(Near Disneyland)
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John, W0IG, Mgr.
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Tri City VE New Hams



South Bay Amateur Radio Association
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Robin Yee, KI6YTA

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Rita Derbas, KI6SSQ

Program Facilitator

Al Rendon, WT6K

Photographer

Dan Curtis, N6WN

Refreshments

Open Position

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
 WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2
 WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
 K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0
 K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
 ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm -
 147.015 + PL 103.5

SBARA Meeting Location

Our meeting location is at

Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
 Bring your HF transceiver, antenna) or HT !

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Also consider joining us at Wok City Diner
 for Dinner at 6PM

Mingle with your fellow SBARA members

The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Stat-

utes. We sponsor training for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fre-

mont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Announcements

**SBARA's monthly meeting is
April 9th. Beginning at 7:30pm**

**Our meeting location is at
Hurricane Electric. The address in
Fremont is:
760 Mission Court —
Come to the meeting and
bring your
HF Rig, HT, Antennas, and Go Pack!!**



**The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association —
SBARA
P.O. Box 8401**